

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Please amend the second paragraph on page 1 as follows:*

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b1  
The invention relates to a data bus for a plurality of nodes that are connected to one another via a star coupler. Such a data bus is known from the unpublished German patent application 19720401 and a corresponding U.S. Patent No. 6,587,474. Herein, the nodes are connected to the data bus via transmitter/sender modules. For optical bus systems, aging of the transmitter diodes or frequent reverse bending fatigue of the optical fiber or damage thereto can lead to a reduction of luminous power to the receiver diode, thereby resulting in malfunctions in the bus traffic. Such an error cannot be automatically detected and diagnosed.

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